

*And I thought we were pals, Ev--



EDITORIALS

Never Forget That These Editorials Are The Opinion Of One Man
And He May Be Wrong

Good Questions

Each year at this season as the annual harvest of suckers is reaped by the "County Agricultural Fairs" the question is asked: "Why harass local gamblers when wide-open gambling is permitted at these glorified carnivals? Why assume a puritanical community stance about pornographic magazines in drug stores and filthy movies in the theaters when the absolute most vulgar displays are permitted at these so-called fairs."

These are good questions. They answer themselves. A community can hardly embrace fixed gambling one week of the year and take pride in its "propriety" the other 51 weeks of the year. The community cannot support the most debauched exhibitions of carnality one week of the year and take solace in the support it gives to its churches the other 51 weeks of the year.

We all very well know this, including the organizations whose good names are used in the sponsorship of such criminality. But we tolerate it, generally in

the name of Sweet Charity, since the money being raised is being used for "worthy causes".

This is the ancient principle that any means are proper if one arrives at a good end.

Christopher Dawson has said, "As soon as men decide that all means are permitted to fight an evil, then their good becomes indistinguishable from the evil they set out to destroy."

We can properly paraphrase Dawson, to say: "As soon as men decide that all means are permitted to promote good, then their evil becomes indistinguishable from the good they set out to do."

This page has certainly never made any effort to establish for itself a corner on the prudery market. But it has always attempted to stand for the principle that the law of man and of God is made for every man, every day of the year, and to violate this concept is to threaten the very continuation of Western Civilization.

Howland Mad

Motor Vehicles Commissioner Ralph Howland is howling mad.

Newly annointed with this commissionership Former Journalist Howland wants to cut the bloodshed on our highways. This is a noble desire, and one we can all surely share. But few of us are ready to accept the absurd prescription he dashed off last week.

Howland wants to increase the highway patrol by 124 per cent — from 811 men to 1811 men.

Howland wants to confiscate cars and trucks of those convicted of drunken driving.

Howland wants to strengthen the automobile inspection laws.

Howland could best increase the effectiveness of the highway patrol by persuading his friend Governor Dan Moore to appoint some superior court judges who would quit directing not-guilty verdicts for drivers whose blood alcohol content was .18 per cent, as the most recent Moore appointee James Exum did at the last term of Greene County Superior Court.

Howland could take more dangerous

drivers — including drunken drivers off the highways by vastly improving the law pertaining to the issue of drivers' license. Proving a man's drunkenness by chemical analysis, or by expert witness is difficult as Judge Exum's verdict proves, but more than 25 per cent of the people driving today should not be licensed. The chronic drunk, drug addict, accident prone driver should not, in the first instance be issued a driving license.

Possession of a driving license is not a divine right, nor even a civil right. It is a permissive act of government, and government in North Carolina has been, and still is far too permissive in this realm.

Lastly, the most careful inspection of a car today does not prove that it will be safe tomorrow, or next month, or 11 months from now. The laws we already have, pertaining to the operation of improperly equipped motor vehicles are all we need if patrolmen didn't have to waste their time waiting in superior courts for judges and juries to turn loose drunken drivers.

Washington Trickery

Rational people may wonder why a federal statistician last week issued a statement that \$9,191 was the minimum annual need for a family of four to live on a modest scale.

Examination tends to support the premise that this statement is not so stupid as it sounds on its face, despite the fact that the federal minimum wage is \$1.60 per hour, or just \$3,328 per year.

The purpose of this kind of statement coming out of Washington is to push the taxable base higher and higher. Only by deliberate expansion of the average income, by whatever means, can federal taxes come within shouting range of federal spending.

This, of course, is the purpose of the federal minimum wage law. There is utterly nothing humanitarian about such laws. When the federal income from social security taxes is based on a \$6,600 per year maximum, the government is losing 8.8 per cent tax on every dollar less than \$6,600 that every worker is earning.

The same of course applies to income tax, and an assortment of other taxes, visible and hidden.

If minimum wage laws were humanitarian in concept, rather than economic, some provision under the law would be made for the unemployables — the unskilled, who can never become skilled. But the law has worked in exactly the opposite direction, forcing more and more of these borderline workers off private payrolls and onto the wide assortment of federal doles that are now being tossed wildly around.

So this little federal statistician who issued such a typical Washington lie, was not just simply exhibiting his ignorance or his malice. He was pouring more gas on the inflationary fires that must flame higher and higher for fear all the steam will run out for this affluent society.

Typically Sanford

Former Governor Terry Sanford has gone deep into the heart of the lost colony and prescribed toll roads as a remedy for the economic pains being suffered in that vast super-highwayless land east of I-85.

This is a typical Sanfordism. For nearly a generation now gas tax money has been constantly siphoned out of East Carolina to cover the Piedmont with concrete, asphalt, cloverleaves and fenced in super-roads.

Now that they are getting somewhere toward the tail end of this monstrous spending program in the Piedmont Sanford suggests that we Easterners put in toll roads, while they have free roads in the Piedmont.

Funny thing; some Easterners are stupid enough to buy such a package, because it is wrapped in the double-talk of "political practicality".

There is only one fair way to spend tax money. It is not a very complicated way. Even the average governor, or the average legislator, or the average highway commissioner ought to be able to understand it.

Spend about the same amount of tax money in an area that is collected in an area. Now the Piedmont politicians tell us that this would penalize the East because we pay less taxes than the Piedmont. Horse radish!

What has been happening in recent times is that all the tax money collected in the Piedmont has been spent in the Piedmont, and nearly all the money collected in the East has also been spent in the Piedmont.

For example: Lenoir Countians annually pay about \$2,640,000 in gas taxes to the state. Set aside one million of that for maintenance and overhead and that would leave about \$1.6 million per year for new road work.

In the past 14 years — since Luther Hodges and the Piedmont politicians destroyed the principle of spending road money in fairly close relation to where it is collected Lenoir County has had less than four million dollars in new road money.

If Lenoir County had gotten its fair share the figure would have been closer to \$21.6 million. Multiply this figure by the 30 counties east of I-85 and the enor-

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

BY JACK RIDER

One day last week a young woman dropped by to ask my help in circulating a petition that urges congress, and the President to quit trading with "The Enemy". She was utterly sincere, and I support both her effort and her logic, but later in the same day, while scanning the Congressional Record I came upon some statistics which make me wonder how this young woman, or anyone else is going to be able to identify the enemy.

Her petition was most basically against trade with the communist bloc, but in the first nine months of this year 57 so-called "Free World" ships of 384,100 dead weight tonnage delivered materials of war to North Vietnam. This number included 47 British ships of 286,600 tons, five Cyprian ships of 53,000 tons, three Maltese ships of 32,700 tons and two Italian ships of 20,000 tons.

Further, in the period between June 1965 and September of this year 932 ships have delivered materials of war to the North Vietnamese, who have now killed nearly 14,000 American boys and wounded another 110,000. Of that 932 ships 239 were from the "Free World", most of them from nations still receiving economic aid from the same Americans whose boys they are helping to kill.

In that same period when 239 "Free World" ships were helping to kill our boys there were just 306 Russian ships delivering materials of war. So the tonnage of death-dealing equipment delivered to North Vietnam by our "friends" was almost equal to that delivered by the Russians.

This young woman who called on me is the wife of a Du Pont worker. Dacron is manufactured by Du Pont under license from Imperial Chemicals, a British firm, which holds patent rights to Dacron. If we quit trading with the British enemy, would this involve shutting down Dacron manufacture by Du Pont?

England is also the largest single customer for our locally grown flue-cured tobacco. In the latest year for which I have figures we exported \$413 million worth of tobacco, and England got nearly half of that total. So I wonder just how far we can go with this business of cutting off trade with "The Enemy"?

International trade, like international affairs is too complex for the average one of us to comprehend. Most of us, myself particularly included, are far too prone to cutting the world up into blacks and whites. But the spectrum of trade, and diplomacy runs erratically from those two extremes.

If this philosophy were carried to its logical extreme it's not likely that we could carry on any foreign trade. Our nearest and dearest neighbor, Canada, trades freely with Russia, selling the Soviets huge amounts of wheat which is used to feed men, who build guns, which kill our boys. But we also need to keep in mind that Canada is not the only country guilty of such Soviet trade. Our country has indulged in it too; not only selling Russia food, but selling strategic materials used in military machines . . . and the trade still goes on.

There are so few areas of absolute black and absolute white in this venal business of world affairs that the average citizen — Russian or American — has no reasonably accurate way of deciding whether our country is right or wrong, and very largely because so few of us really know what our country is officially doing, and certainly not WHY it is doing, whatever it is doing.

mity of this thievery becomes apparent. And it is still going on. During one year of Hodges' reign more highway money was spent in Forsyth County alone than in all the counties combined east of I-85. Now, toll roads? Hell no!

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